

Message Text

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SUBJECT : FY 1978 PL 480, TITLE I COTTON

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1. AGATT MET WITH BTMC OFFICIALS TO FURTHER DISCUSS LATEST COTTON DEVELOPMENTS INCLUDING STATUS OF PURCHASE AUTHORIZATION FOR 35,000 BALES OF COTTON UNDER JANUARY 13, 1978 TITLE I AGREEMENT. BTMC'S CHAIRMAN, SHAMSUL HAQUE EXPRESSED SERIOUS CONCERN ABOUT CONTINUING DELAYS IN PA ISSUANCE AND INQUIRED WHETHER THE BDG'S CLARIFICATION RELATING TO COTTON PURCHASES FROM PAKISTAN AS REPORTED REFTEL A WAS ACCEPTABLE TO USG. HE FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT BTMC'S DECISION TO PURCHASE 7/8 INCH STAPLE COTTON FROM PAKISTAN WAS ON ADVICE OF BDG/EMBASSY/W AS THIS COTTON WAS NOT AVAILABLE FROM THE U.S. SOURCES.

2. REGARDING DELIVERY SCHEDULES, THE CHAIRMAN ALSO STATED NEED FOR ORDERLY WELL SPACED SHIPMENTS TO PREVENT LOGISTICAL COMPLICATIONS AND EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF DELIVERY PERIOD, AS DEFINED IN THE PL 480, TITLE I REGULATIONS, E.E. AT U.S. PORTS. IN PAST DISCUSSIONS WITH BTMC OFFICIALS THERE WAS SOME CONFUSION DUE TO DIFFERENT TERMS USED. FOR EXAMPLE, ARRIVAL, SHIPMENT AND DELIVERY
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PAGE 02 DACCA 02522 250254Z

TERMS HAVE BEEN USED LOOSELY SUGGESTING IN SOME CASES ACTUAL ARRIVAL IN BANGLADESH RATHER THAN U.S. PORTS. ACCORDING TO CHAIRMAN, THE DELIVERY PERIOD (I.E. U.S. PORT) IN THE PA SHOULD BE AS FOLLOWS: 5,000 BALES ONE AND ONE-EIGHTH INCH STAPLE COTTON NOT LATER THAN MAY 31; 10,000 BALES 31/32 INCH STAPLE NOT LATER THAN JUNE 30; AND 20,000 BALES ONE INCH STAPLE NOT LATER THAN JULY 31. ALLOWING APPROXIMATELY TWO MONTHS FOR VESSELS TO REACH CHITTAGONG,

COTTON SHIPMENTS WOULD THUS BE ACTUALLY ARRIVING BANGLADESH IN JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER RESPECTIVELY. CHAIRMAN FURTHER EXPRESSED DESIRE THAT PA BE ISSUED FOR THE ENTIRE QUANTITY OF 35,000 BALES IN ACCORDANCE WITH DELIVERY PERIOD SPECIFIED ABOVE, TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A BETTER PRICE WHICH WOULD NOT BE OTHERWISE POSSIBLE IF PA WERE SPLIT INTO SMALLER PORTIONS.

3. COMMENT: MISSION CONCURS WITH ABOVE SCHEDULE AND IF MAINTAINED, FORESEES NO PROBLEMS WHICH WOULD CAUSE PL 480, TITLE I COTTON UPON ARRIVAL IN BANGLADESH TO BE SUBJECT TO UNDUE DELAYS IN OFFLOADING OR MOVEMENT INTO INTERIOR. ALSO ADEQUATE STORAGE FACILITIES ARE AND SHOULD BE AVAILABLE IN EXISTING MILL WAREHOUSES TO ACCOMMODATE THIS COTTON. EMBASSY URGES EARLIEST ISSUANCE OF PURCHASE AUTHORIZATION.
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